Robotboy

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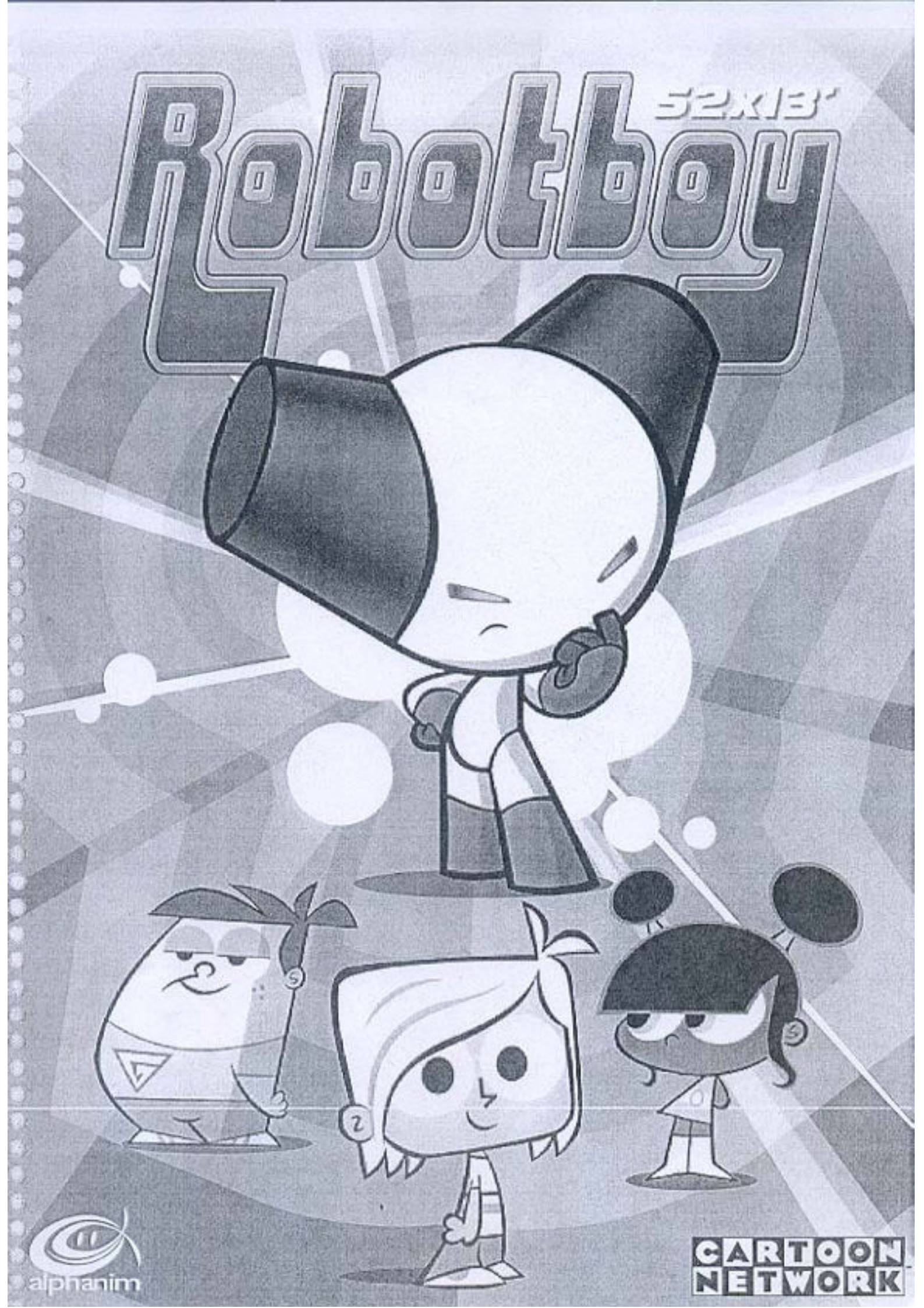

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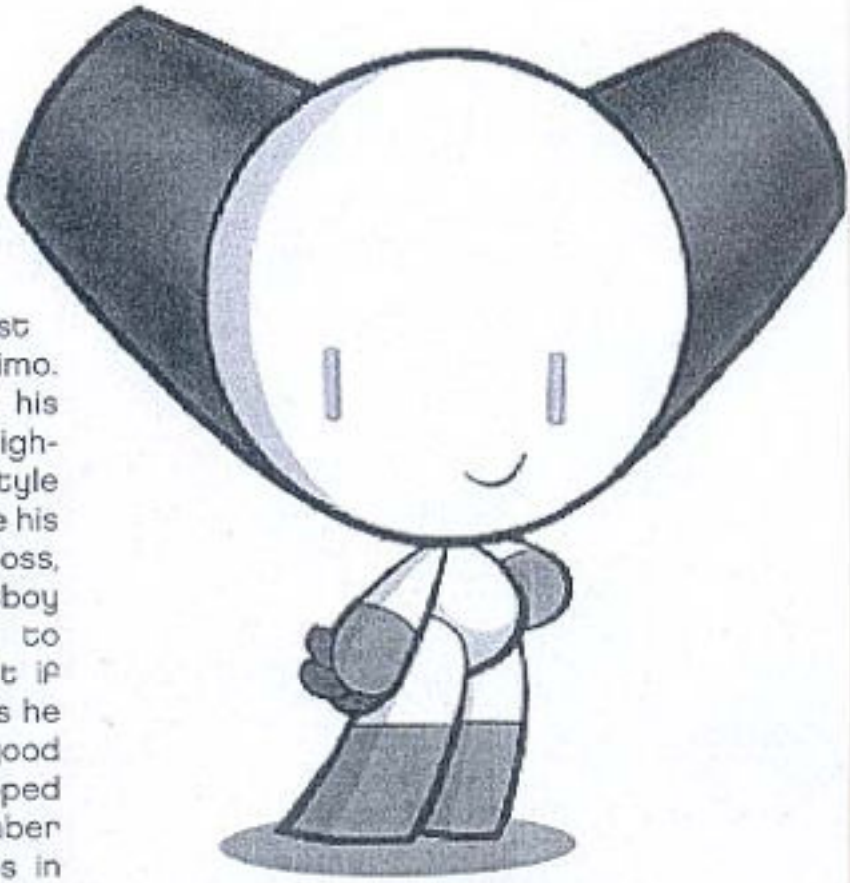
WHAT IS ROBOTBOY?

"Robotboy" is a cross between the Terminator and Pinocchio - a cutting-edge, butt-kicking, prototype super-robot, who wishes he were a normal human boy.

WHERE DOES ROBOTBOY COME FROM?



Robotboy was created by a brilliant Japanese scientist named Professor Moshimo. The professor intended to enter his ultimate fighting robot into a high-profile gladiatorial RobotWars-style TV show. But before he could realize his dream, an evil underworld crime boss, Doctor Kamikazi, got wind of Robotboy and set out to steal him - in order to take over the world. Knowing that if Robotboy fell into the wrong hands he could perpetrate untold evil, the good professor crated him up and shipped him off to his pen pal and number one fan, Tommy Turnbull, who lives in America.

But Dr. Kamikazi has not given up in his quest to capture Robotboy. It falls to Tommy and his two best friends, Gus and Lola, to keep their robot friend out of Dr. Kamikazi's evil clutches. In return, Robotboy protects his new friends from school bullies and psycho math teachers.

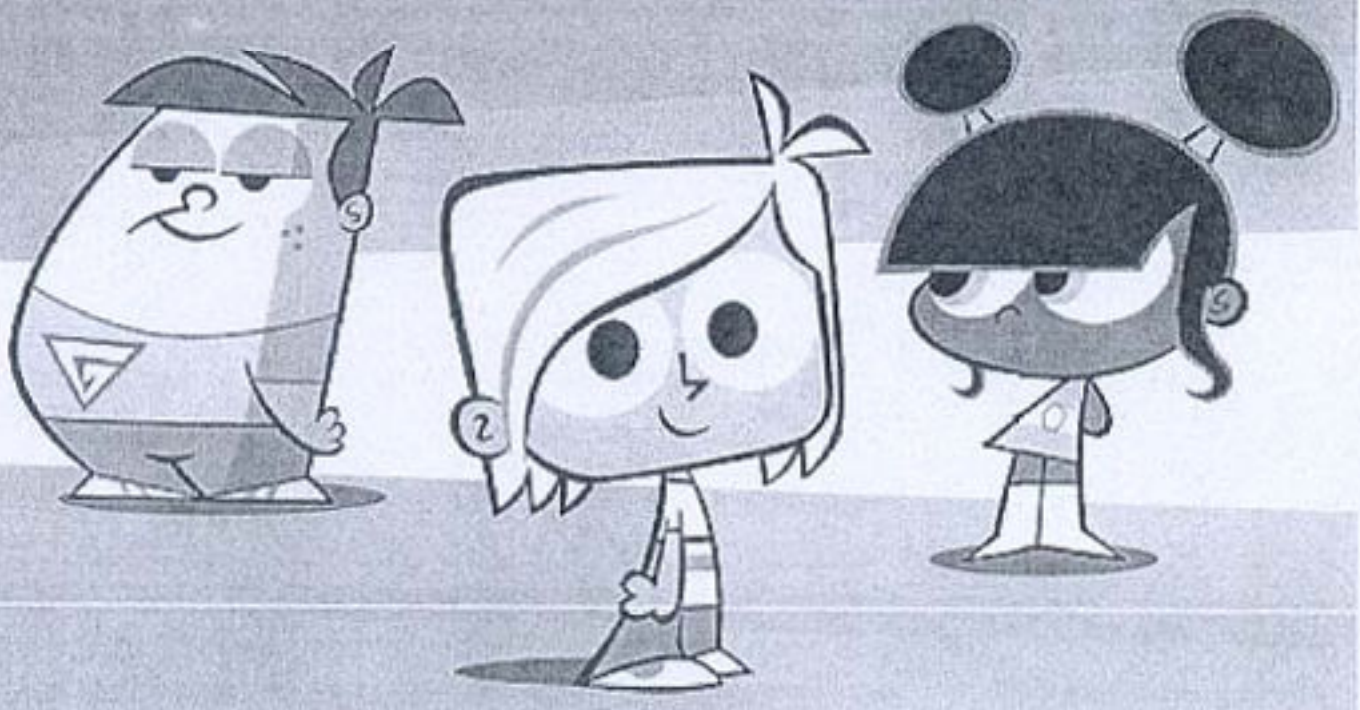
Robotboy was built to be the ultimate fighting machine. But Professor Moshimo, who always went a little overboard, also imbued him with human emotions. Now that Robotboy has grown to love his new friends, he wants to be more like them – he wants to be a real kid. This desire sometimes gets him into trouble, and makes him vulnerable to Dr. Kamikazi's machinations.

WHO ARE TOMMY, GUS AND LOLA?

Tommy is a regular kid. He's smart, good-natured, and responsible. Tommy is Robotboy's primary caregiver, as well as his best friend, and his point of entry into the kid world.

Gus is the craven one. He's weak and gives in to all kinds of temptation. He's neither smart, good-natured, nor responsible, yet still we like him, as do Tommy and Robotboy. He's funny, self-centered and irrepressible. He's the "G-man"!

Lola is the sophisticated one. She only hangs around with this crew because of her unrequited crush on Tommy. (However she's so subtle about it that he's hasn't got a clue!). The daughter of an African diplomat, she's extraordinarily rich, but would be appalled at the idea of using her father's wealth for any selfish interests.

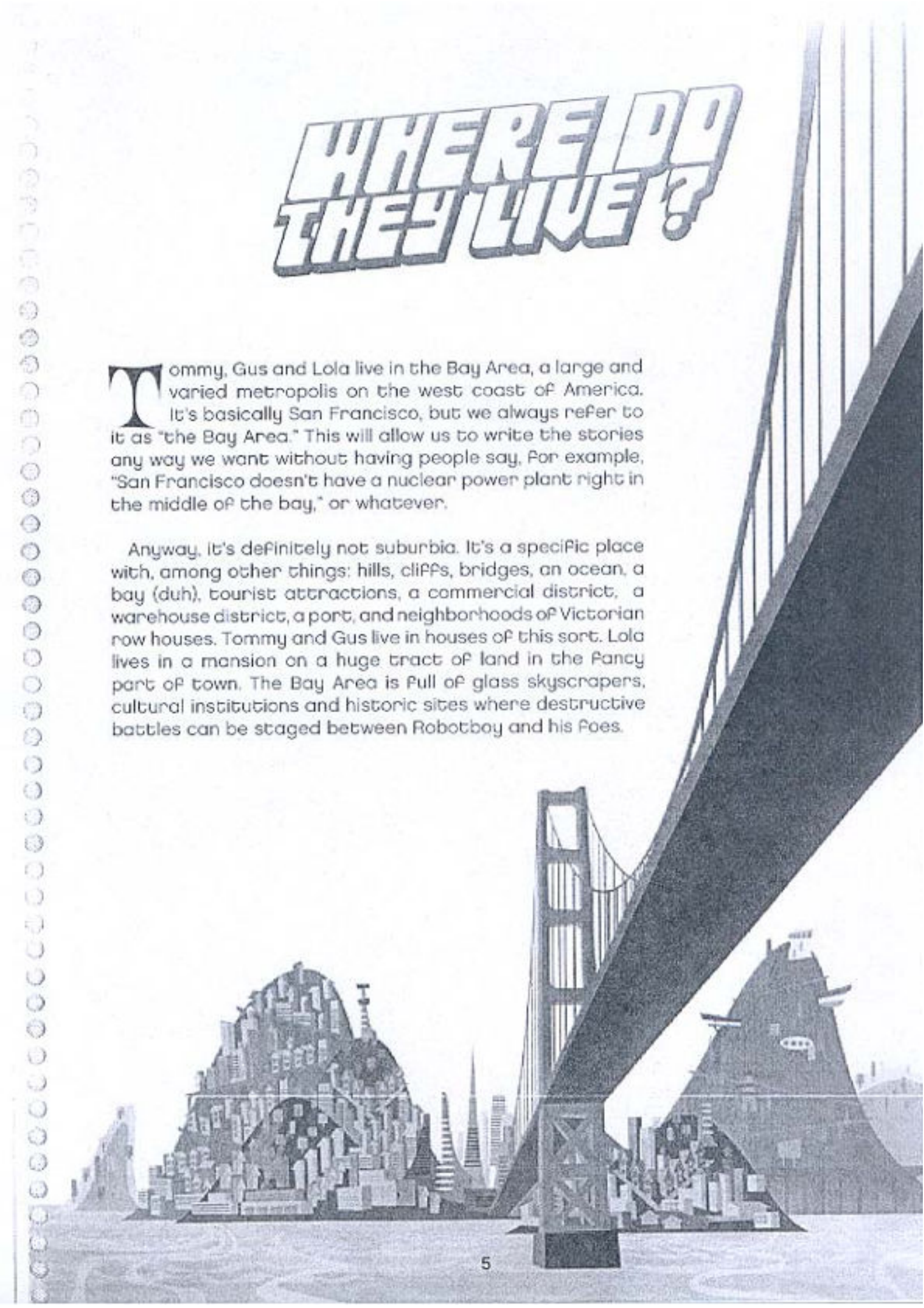


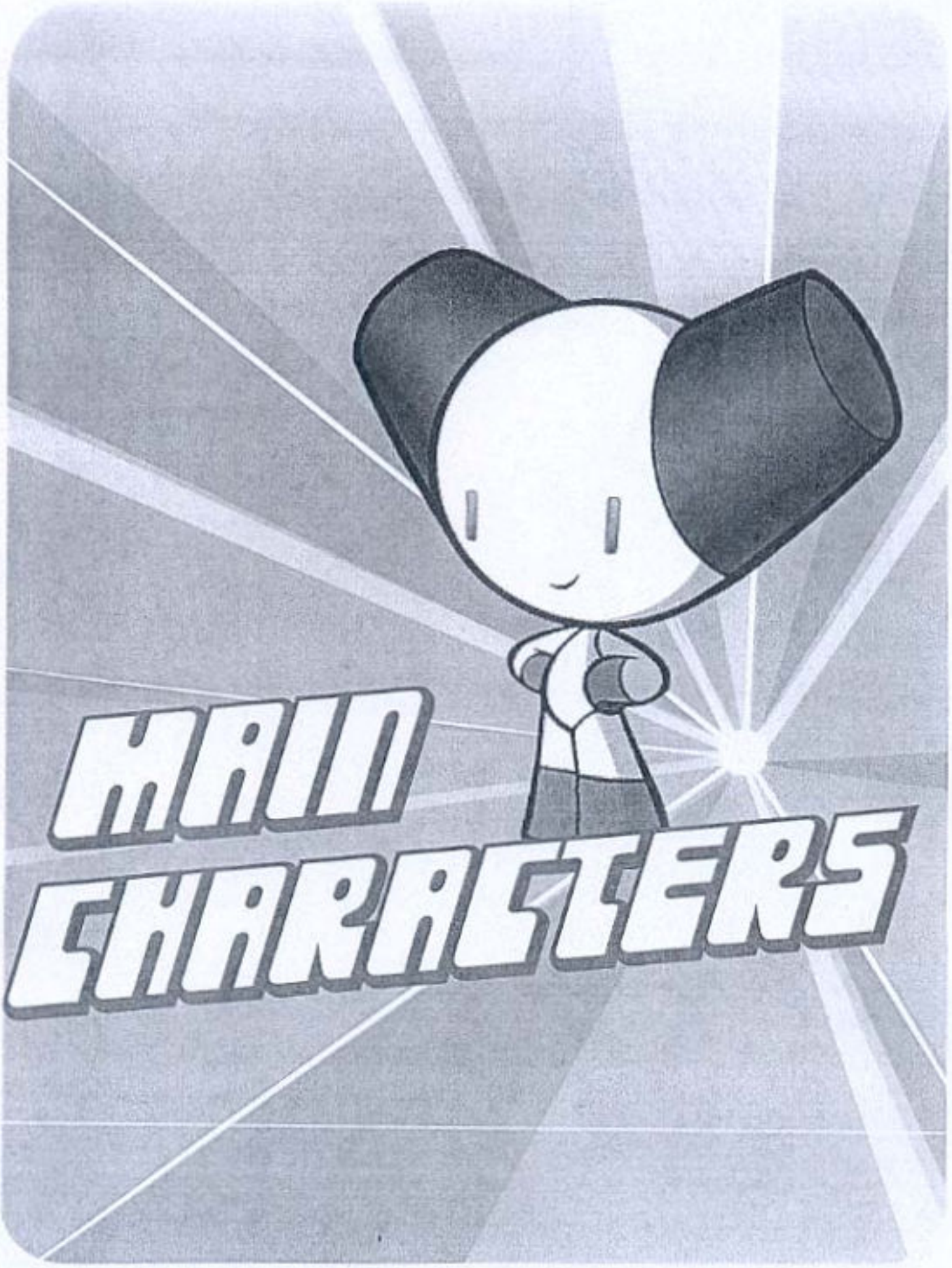
(See below for more detailed descriptions of Tommy, Lola, and Gus.)

WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

Tommy, Gus and Lola live in the Bay Area, a large and varied metropolis on the west coast of America. It's basically San Francisco, but we always refer to it as "the Bay Area." This will allow us to write the stories any way we want without having people say, for example, "San Francisco doesn't have a nuclear power plant right in the middle of the bay," or whatever.

Anyway, it's definitely not suburbia. It's a specific place with, among other things: hills, cliffs, bridges, an ocean, a bay (duh), tourist attractions, a commercial district, a warehouse district, a port, and neighborhoods of Victorian row houses. Tommy and Gus live in houses of this sort. Lola lives in a mansion on a huge tract of land in the fancy part of town. The Bay Area is full of glass skyscrapers, cultural institutions and historic sites where destructive battles can be staged between Robotboy and his foes.




MAIN
CHARACTERS

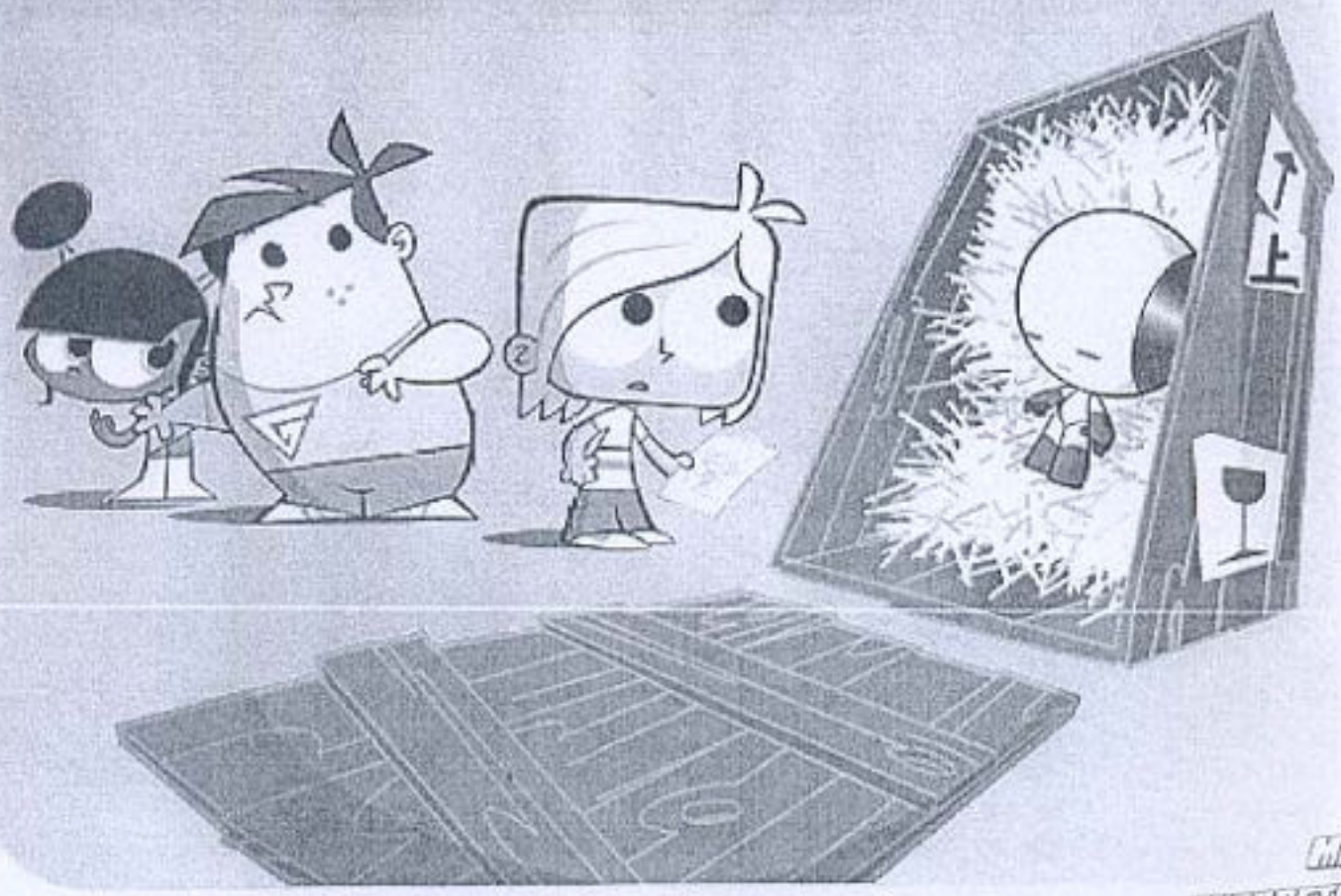
ROBOTBOY

As we've said already, Robotboy is a butt-kicking super-robot who wishes he were a normal human boy. He was created by a brilliant Japanese scientist named Professor Moshimo, who sent him to Tommy in order to keep him out of the clutches of the evil Dr. Kamikazi.

Robotboy, created for the express purpose of winning a robot fighting competition, was imbued not just with a vast array of armaments (which we'll discuss below), but also with many human emotions and traits, the purpose of which are not so obvious.

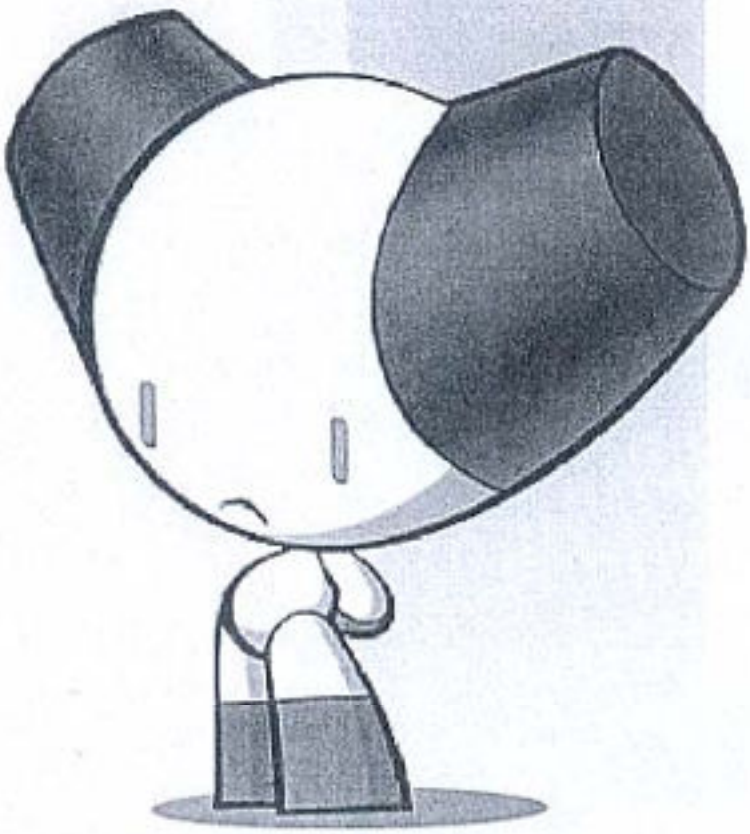
Professor Moshimo never intended for Robotboy to want to become human, but being around Tommy and his friends, and identifying with them, has kindled this desire in him.

Robotboy is **inquisitive**. Moshimo gave him this trait so that he could assess the attributes of his opponents. Now that he's with Tommy, this trait comes in handy as he tries to perceive the world. Robotboy doesn't understand much about human behavior but he's full of questions for Tommy and his friends, which he asks in a halting Japanese-accented voice. Robotboy doesn't have completely fluent command of the English language. He can say just enough to be understood.



He's **loyal** to his friends. Moshimo made him this way so that Robotboy would never turn on him. Now that loyalty has been transferred to Tommy, Lola and Gus, even though the latter seldom deserves it.

But, besides his tremendous butt-kicking ability, Robotboy's predominant trait is his **innocence** (and gullibility). Why Moshimo made him this way is anybody's guess. One suspects that he wasn't quite finished tinkering when he had to pack Robotboy off to Tommy's. Now this characteristic leads Robotboy into trouble big and small. Gus might lure Robotboy to his house by telling him he suspects his parents are agents of Dr. Kamikazi. On a grander scale, the bad doctor himself might use Robotboy's naiveté to lure him into danger.



It's easy to see why Doctor Moshimo made Robotboy **fearless**. Now Robotboy uses this trait to do anything necessary to protect his friends from harm.

Like all kids, Robotboy also has the capability of feeling negative emotions if he's treated in a way that motivates them. He can become **jealous**, **greedy** or **angry**. He can feel **frustrated**, **misunderstood**, **neglected** or **talked down to**. The audience will like Robotboy because he's shiny and cool and kick-ass, but they'll **identify** with him because he has the same emotions, both positive and negative, as any kid.

Robotboy has three distinct modes:
Deactivated, **Activated** and **Superactivated**.

DEACTIVATED ROBOTBOY!

Tommy deactivates Robotboy when he needs to be concealed. This prevents Tommy's "little toy" being recognized as the fighting dynamo that regularly lays waste to half the town in raging, destructive battles!

Appearance

When Robotboy's deactivated he doesn't appear much different from a doll or action figure. He's small enough to fit into Tommy's knapsack or sit on the shelves with the toys. The only signs of life come from his glowing and occasionally blinking eyes. His ear-like appendages are flush to his round head.

Powers

Robotboy has no powers. He can't even move. To all intents and purposes, he is just an action figure.

Personality

When deactivated, Robotboy can't express much personality, but he is sentient and can observe. When something unusual or upsetting happens, his eyes may glow more brightly, or "blink," but that's about it.

ACTIVATED ROBOTBOY!

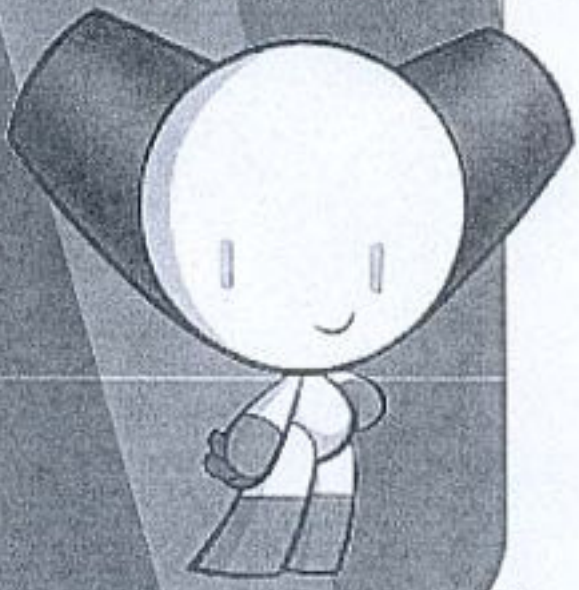
Tommy activates (and deactivates) Robotboy via a special wrist- watch (which can also page Professor Moshimo anywhere in the world). However, there is no security system installed, and so anyone who gets hold of this watch can ultimately control Robotboy.

Appearance

When he's Activated, Robotboy grows to the size of a small boy and his ears emerge from the surface of his head as short truncated cones.

Powers

This is the mode in which we see Robotboy most of the time. He can walk, and talk, of course. He can also, fly and fight – like a Shaolin master, a champion prizefighter, a WWF wrestler and more. He's immensely strong and fast. Plus he has any number of cool apparatuses and appliances, which can extrude from his arms. These devices ought to be very specific and esoteric – far cooler and more technologically advanced than something you'd see on "Inspector Gadget." The apparatuses are revealed according to a particular need. If Robotboy needs to free Tommy from a steel container on the ocean floor, he could produce an acetylene torch. In addition, Professor Moshimo occasionally develops new abilities and powers for his creation, which Robotboy can download, and use in a particular episode.



Personality

As described in Main Characters (see above)

SUPER ACTIVATED ROBOTBOY!

Tommy has no control over superactivation, which occurs automatically when Robotboy's on-board danger-sensing mechanisms hit a certain level. This happens only in heightened, climactic moments. In superactivation mode Robotboy is at his most butt-kicking.

(Note: the transformation from Activated to Superactivated always takes place in a cool visual sequence.)

SUPER ACTIVATED ROBOTBOY!

Appearance

When superactivated, Robotboy grows and changes color from blue to purple. His ears protrude fully giving him the appearance of a deranged mechanical rabbit.

Powers

The main difference between activated and superactivated modes (besides Robotboy's physical appearance) is the presence of weapons: Robotboy only possesses them when he's superactivated. To annihilate his foes, parts of his body transform into high tech armaments: His forearms can transform into energy-blasting laser guns (no bullets, please). His thorax may open up to reveal a proton cannon. His head can tilt back to fire a laser from his neck. As with his devices, Robotboy's superactivated weapons are not immutable.

Just when viewers think they know everything Robotboy is capable of, we'll surprise them by revealing some cool, devastating, and heretofore unknown power. We look forward to great new ideas from writers and artists.

Personality

When Robotboy's Superactivated, he loses all traces of his child-like self. He's all business – an awesome fighting machine. His voice changes to a low guttural sound and he only speaks Japanese invoking his catchphrase "Fugen jikkô!" ("It's go time!") before laying waste to anyone who would harm his friends.

POWER SOURCE!

Like all great Japanese inventions, Robotboy is battery-powered. He takes a dozen "double A"s. He's rechargeable, so Tommy isn't always fumbling around with a bagful of Energizers, but if Tommy forgets to plug him in overnight or if Robotboy battles in Superactivated mode for too long, he's liable to run out of juice and power down. This gives the show drama and tension. When Tommy changes his batteries or recharges him it's the equivalent of Popeye eating spinach.

As a machine, Robotboy doesn't need to eat. But because he sees Tommy, Lola and especially Gus eating, he likes to try. Eating certain foods (like candy) gunks up his works and causes him to deactivate.

Although created by Professor Moshimo, Robotboy didn't have a chance to develop a strong emotional bond with the inventor. Moshimo assembled him and tested his circuits, but Dr. Kamikazi invaded his lab on the day Moshimo intended to bring him to life. If only the Professor hadn't bought his batteries from a street vendor, everything would have turned out differently. Robotboy would have laid waste to Kamikazi and that would have been that. As it was, it was Tommy who first powered him up and it's with Tommy that Robotboy has bonded.

TOMMY TURNBULL, 10

Tommy is smart, sensitive, powerless, and small. He can figure things out. He's the lone bastion of sanity among his more outrageous friends. He's not a straight man, but he's the straightest man. Tommy is basically a "regular," likeable kid, but he's definitely more of an inside kid than an outside kid: he's into video games, comics, and most of all, his action toy collection. He has a huge collection of action figures which he's pretty anal about, insisting on keeping them "mint and in the box," and perfectly aligned in display cases.

Before Robotboy came along, Tommy was already a huge robot fan. He followed the career of Professor Moshimo through fanzines and websites. He often wrote to the Professor asking him detailed questions about his inventions. The Professor always wrote him back and became quite fond of him. When the Doctor Kamikazi came after the Professor, trying to steal Robotboy away from him, the Professor quickly packed up Robotboy and shipped him off to his trusted young fan.

TOMMY TURNBULL, 10

Tommy's cautious and a bit of a worrier. He worries for Robotboy's safety, worries that Robotboy will be discovered. As a result he likes to keep Robotboy under wraps. When he takes Robotboy to school or out in public, he knows the prudent course is to deactivate him. Robotboy doesn't like to ever be deactivated, so this causes conflict between them.

His friend, Gus, is more reckless with Robotboy and think of Tommy as a bit of a killjoy. Tommy prefers to see it as being responsible. He realizes what could happen to Robotboy out there.

Tommy sees himself as a best friend and mentor to Robotboy. Like an older brother, he tries to teach Robotboy the ways of the boy world. He loves Robotboy and wants to help him get what he wants. He sees it as his mission to help Robotboy grow up.

DWIGHT & DEB TURNBULL

Dwight and Deb Turnbull are Tommy's parents. They both work: Dwight is an aging jock who manages a sporting goods store downtown. Deb is a librarian in charge of the town's bookmobile. She brings badly needed reading material to schools, prisons and shut-ins. This means that Tommy can be alone in the house when he arrives home from school or left in the care of his sadistic brother. Donnie has his parents snowed into thinking he's just swell.

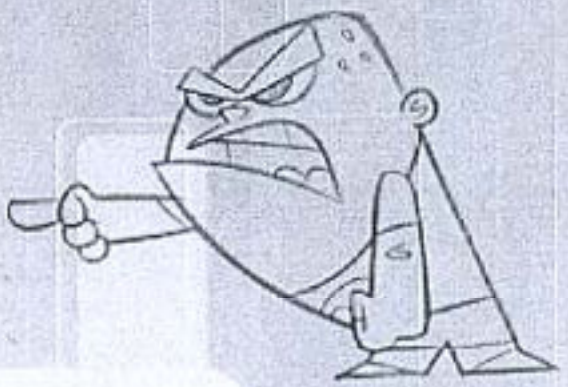
Dwight doesn't understand Tommy. He wants Tommy to be a jock, popular, a regular All-American Boy. It drives him up a wall that Tommy's so into "dolls" (action figures). He encourages him to throw around the pigskin with him and Donnie, who sucks up to him.

Deb has a secret alliance with Tommy. She understands him and helps him be himself when Dwight gets on his case. Deb is into self-improvement and is always reading. She doesn't think it's important that Tommy be an athlete or any of the things Dwight wants him to be, just so long as he's well read. For any problem, she has the solution in a book nearby. She's always trying to get Dwight to improve himself, and offers him the books to do so. Dwight never wants to read them though. He likes TV.

DONNIE TURNBULL

Tommy's brother is a 13-year-old sadist and bully. He likes to tease Tommy and mess with his stuff (especially his action figure collection) and to torment his little brother in any way that he can.

Tommy can't allow Donnie to see Robotboy activated, because if he did, he'd try and steal him. So he pretends that Robotboy is just another action figure.



Sometimes, when Donnie goes too far in his mistreatment of Tommy, Robotboy will find a way to sneakily punish him without exposing himself. He'll melt his belt buckle causing his pants to fall down or do something else to humiliate him. As a result, Donnie has developed an inexplicable dread or phobia of Donnie's toy.

Sort of like a dog who's been sprayed too many times by a garden hose: he doesn't really understand why, he just knows the thing is bad.

AUGUSTUS GUS

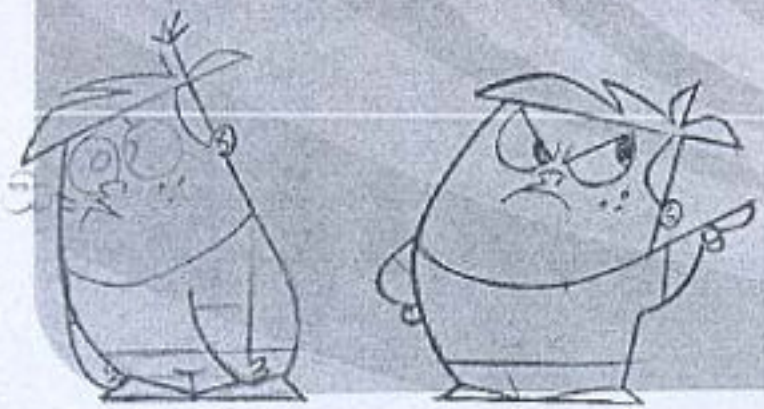
BACKMAN TURNER, 10

Gus is overweight, weak-willed, pathetic, bungling, neurotic, and selfish. In other words, he's irresistible. Gus is full of ideas – all of them half-baked, and all of them involving some form of gratification or shortcut to getting what he wants. He's a mischievous prankster whose tricks usually blow up in his face, leading Gus to point the finger at others.

Outwardly, he's confident and egotistical, an inveterate liar and self-aggrandiser. But underneath he's a coward. Gus wants to use Robotboy to fight his battles for him, to get back at the bullies who tease him. He tries to win Robotboy's affections by bribing him with candy – which mucks up his works and gets him sick. Whenever Robotboy goes missing,

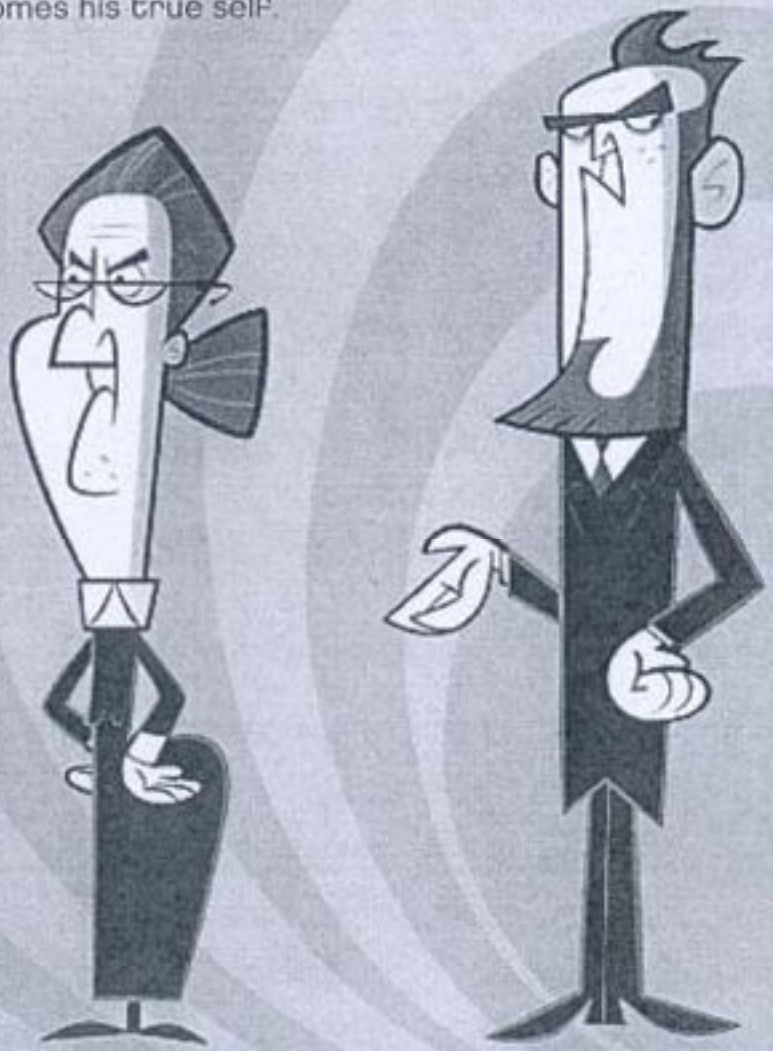
Gus is suspect number one. Tommy may need Robotboy at a given moment but he's not to be found because Gus is funnelling hot chocolate down his throat.

Despite all of Gus' obvious faults he has enormous, if misguided, self-belief and tends to refer to himself in the third person – as the "G-Man".



JEBEDIAH & HESTER BACHMAN-TURNER

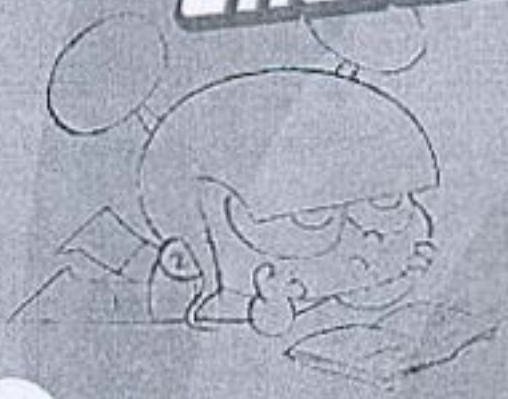
Gus' parents, Jedidiah and Hester Bachman-Turner are really too old to be parents. They're approaching retirement age and were blessed (if you can call it that) late in life. They are "Luddites" and puritans – so strict and morally upright that they consider cars and electricity to be sinful. They're asceticism is a complete contrast to Gus in every way. (They're extremely thin, too.) Gus acts completely differently whenever he's around them: he's well-behaved and respectful. But as soon as he's out of their sight he cuts loose and becomes his true self.



Gus always wants to hang out at Lola's because she's rich and has lots of food and toys and TVs. But Lola won't allow him in her house. Gus settles for Tommy's house, who's toys are pretty good too.

Gus always wants to bring Robotboy home with him. Robotboy doesn't want to go – he's not afraid of anything in the world except Gus' parents. Gus must resort to lies, trickery and deactivation to get Robotboy to come over.

LOLA MBOLA, 10



Lola is confident, educated and smart. In other words, she's the polar opposite of Gus.

She's the daughter of a wealthy African diplomat, Kingsley Mbola, and his supermodel wife, Titi. Lola's parents are often jet-setting around the world, and Lola is minded by a household staff, who hover around her with schedules and clipboards, reminding her to brush her teeth and do her homework. Lola accepts the obligations of her wealth and position. She never uses her wealth to give her an advantage over other kids. She wants to be just one of the gang.

Unlike Gus, Lola has no designs to make Robotboy her own. To her, Robotboy is Tommy's thing. If anything she might be a little jealous of their close relationship. But she likes Robotboy and maintains good relations with him. She knows that if you want to hang with Tommy, you have to hang with Robotboy.

Lola is secretly in love with Tommy. But Tommy is infatuated with another, the Bimbo-ish Bambi. Lola is outraged by this and can't imagine what he sees in her.

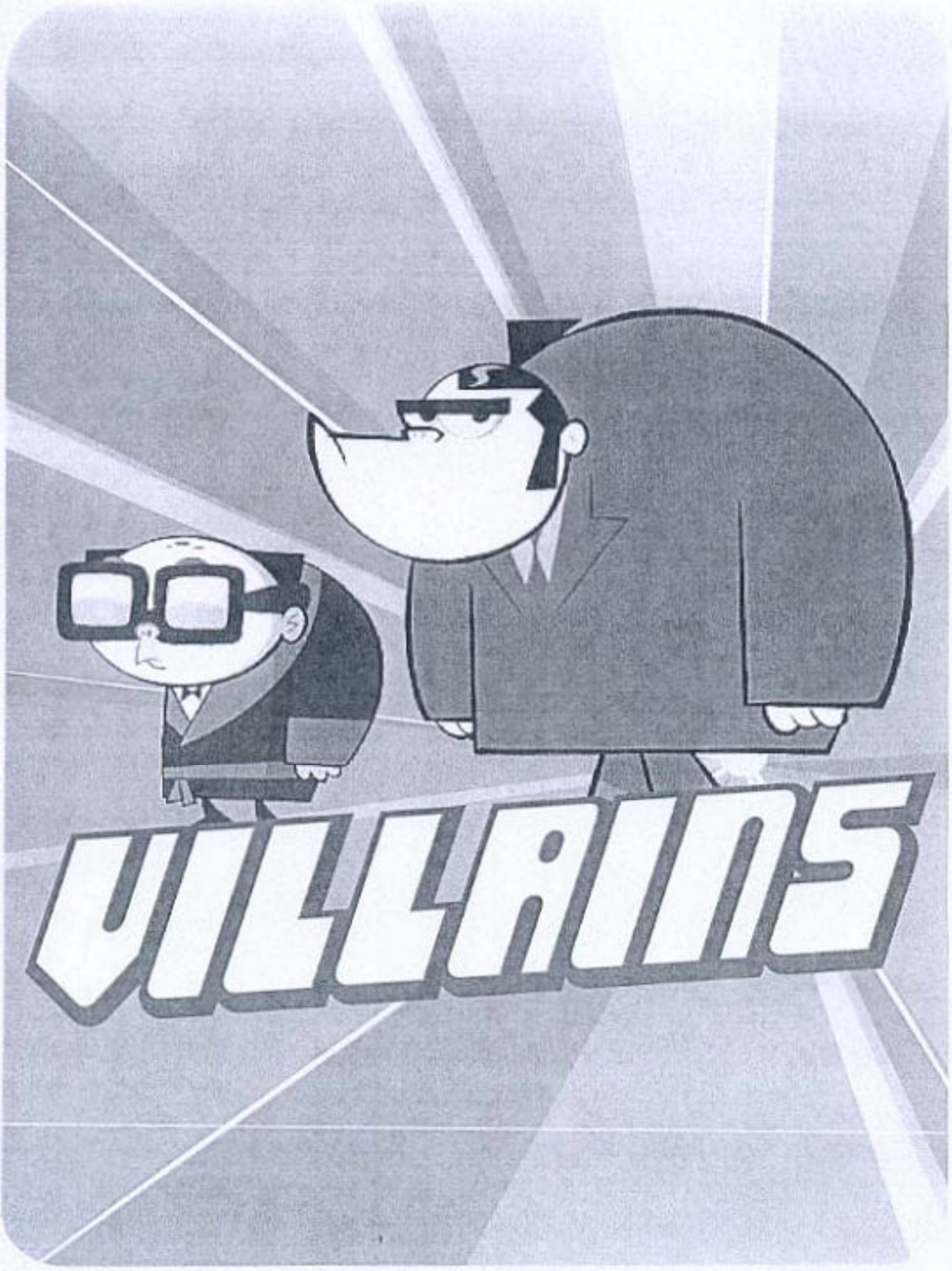
Robotboy likes Lola and always wants to go over to her house because they've got the latest version of everything known to man. The Mbola mansion is to Robotboy what Pleasure Island is to Pinocchio.

TITI & KINGSLEY

PROFESSOR MOSHIMO

Professor Moshimo is a bit of an enigma and tries to remain out of sight. Dr. Kamikazi knows that if he can't capture Robotboy, his next best option is to enslave Professor Moshimo and force him to create another cutting-edge, butt-kicking, prototype super-robot. As a result, the Professor and Miu Miu, his beautiful and brilliant mute lab assistant, have been forced to go into hiding and are always on the move.

Tommy is able to contact his uncle via his wristwatch in emergencies (Moshimo and Miu Miu always seem to be doing something glamorous whenever Tommy calls), but it's a risky proposition because Kamikazi can intercept the signal and pinpoint Moshimo's location. The Professor always tries to be helpful, but worries about the risk.


VILLAINS

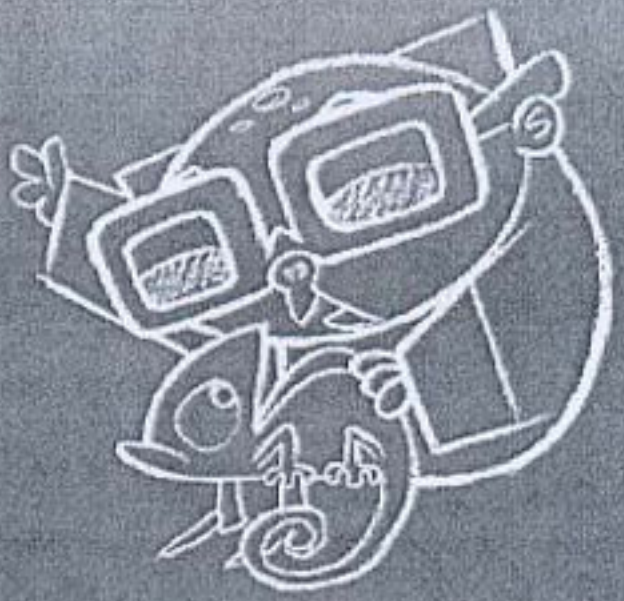
DOCTOR KAMIKAZI

Doctor Kamikazi is the main nemesis for Robotboy, and consequently, for Tommy, Gus, Lola and all of The Bay Area. "Doctor" is not a title, but actually his first name, which he had legally changed. He is a lethal foe, yet has a diminutive presence and a quirky nature that undermines his deadliness right up until the moment we realize he's going to destroy the world.

Kamikazi is like an urBondian villain: he lives on a high-tech island and has limitless financial resources and techno-wizardry at his disposal. And like a Blofeld or a Goldfinger, the source of the great wealth that enables him to constantly squander fortunes on plots that always fail is a closely guarded secret.

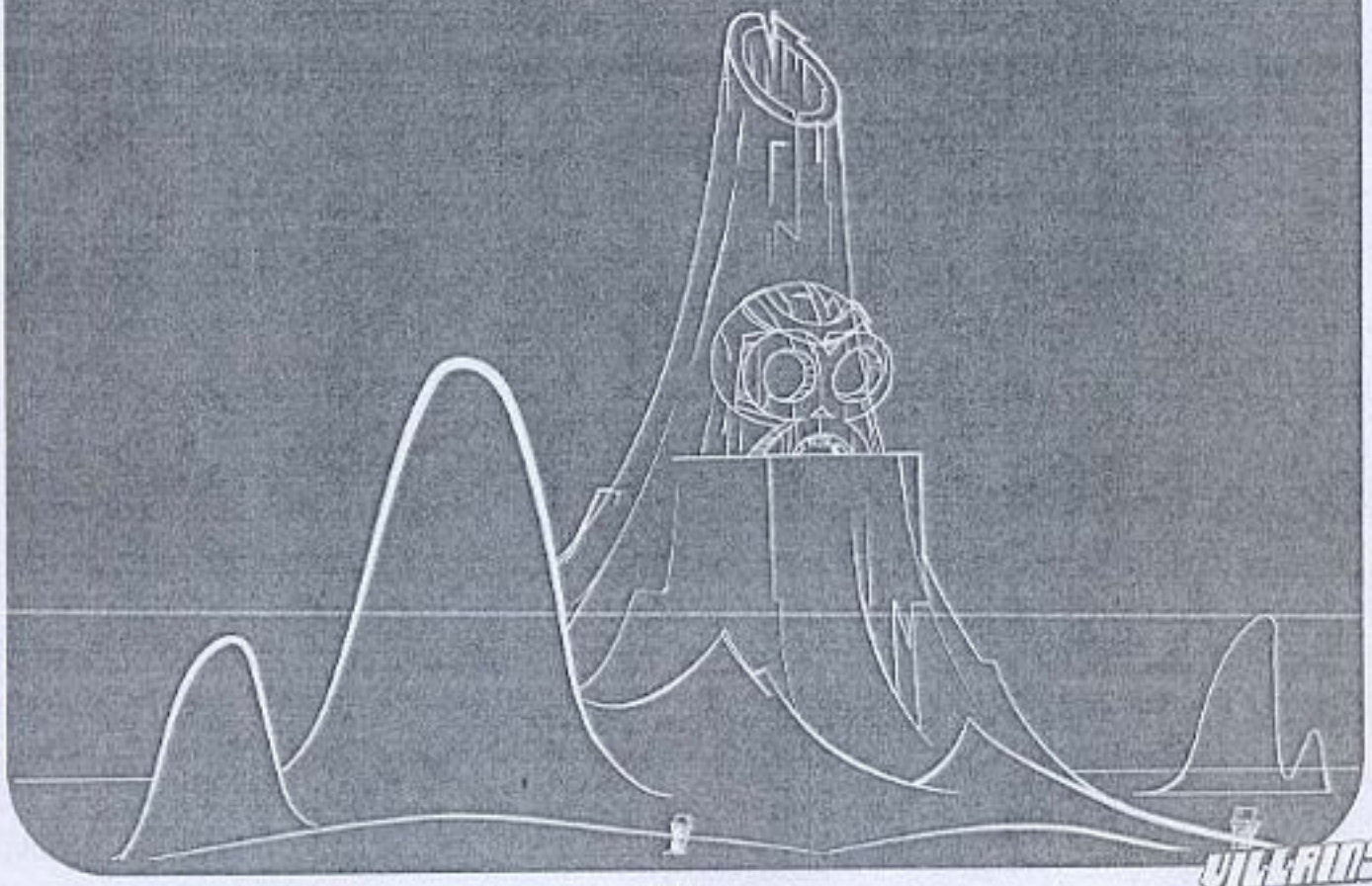
The truth is that his money is inherited from his father, an inventor who patented the elastic waistband. Dr. Kamikazi followed in his father's footsteps and also became an inventor, but an incredibly lame one. All of his inventions are derivatives of things that were invented long ago, the difference being that Kamikazi's inventions don't work as well. The only thing he's good at creating are violent henchclones and high tech weapons. He covets Robotboy because the invincible fighting robot is the last element he needs to put in place in order to take over the world.

DOCTOR KAMIKAZI

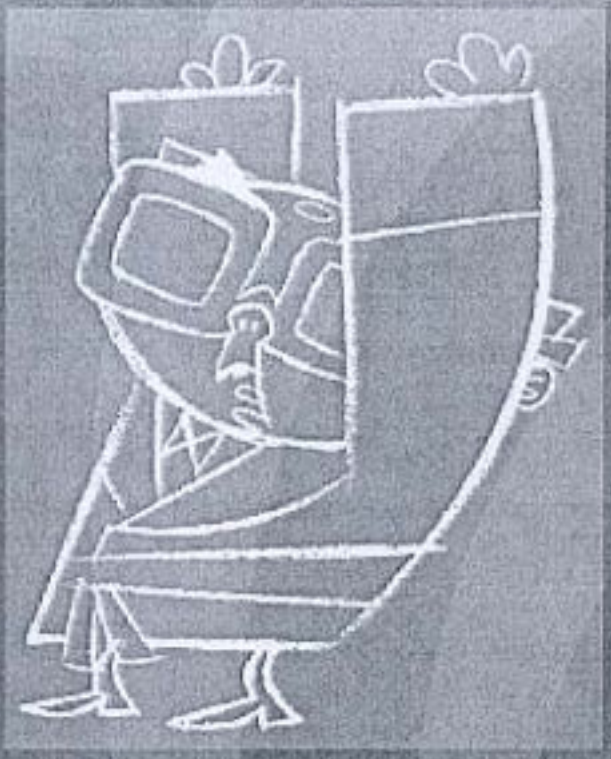


Dr. Kamikazi went to inventor school with Professor Moshimo. Kamikazi was a poor student, and he always despised Moshimo for the latter's easy-going nature and affinity for his work.

Dr. Kamikazi wants Robotboy so that he can take him apart and copy his design in order to create an army of fighting robots and take over the world. His grand scheme is to turn Earth into his own empire, Kaziland. At the moment, Kaziland is limited to his small island in the Pacific, which he bought at a bargain price after the French used it for atomic testing in the 60s.



DOCTOR KAMIKAZI

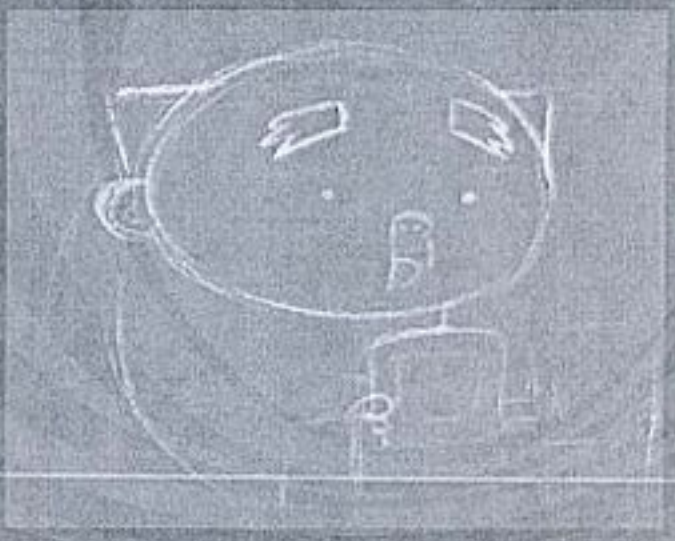


He's fastidious and obsessive, like many confirmed bachelors. He composes his own synthesized lounge music and dreams of the day when he's ruler of the world and can award himself a Grammy. Dr. Kamikazi drinks pure rainwater out of a martini glass and eats only tapas. He doesn't like to change his clothes or shower, so he just has himself dry-cleaned.

With his "Kazi-cams" (surveillance cameras hidden away in playground equipment, pez dispensers, drones hovering outside Tommy's windows, etc), Dr. Kamikazi is able to find out what Tommy and Robotboy are up to and is always ready to unleash an evil plan to capture him and make him do his bidding.

Kamikazi is keenly aware of his status as a world-class villain and knows how important it is to keep up appearances. To bolster his image as a super villain, he keeps a collection of exotic and dangerous pets like Komodo dragons, Burmese pythons and big jungle cats. These kind of pets require constant vigilance. If you take your eyes off these beasts for one moment they're liable to rip you a new face or worse. Unfortunately Kamikazi's always getting distracted by something, leaving himself vulnerable to attack. Like all great cartoon villains, he never seems to learn.

Doctor Kamikazi speaks with a sharp, brittle, nasal, staccato voice that's grating but fun to imitate. When he gets annoyed he becomes whiny and long-suffering. He speaks in clipped sentences, mostly issuing commands without verbs or articles, like: "Constantine! Tapas!"

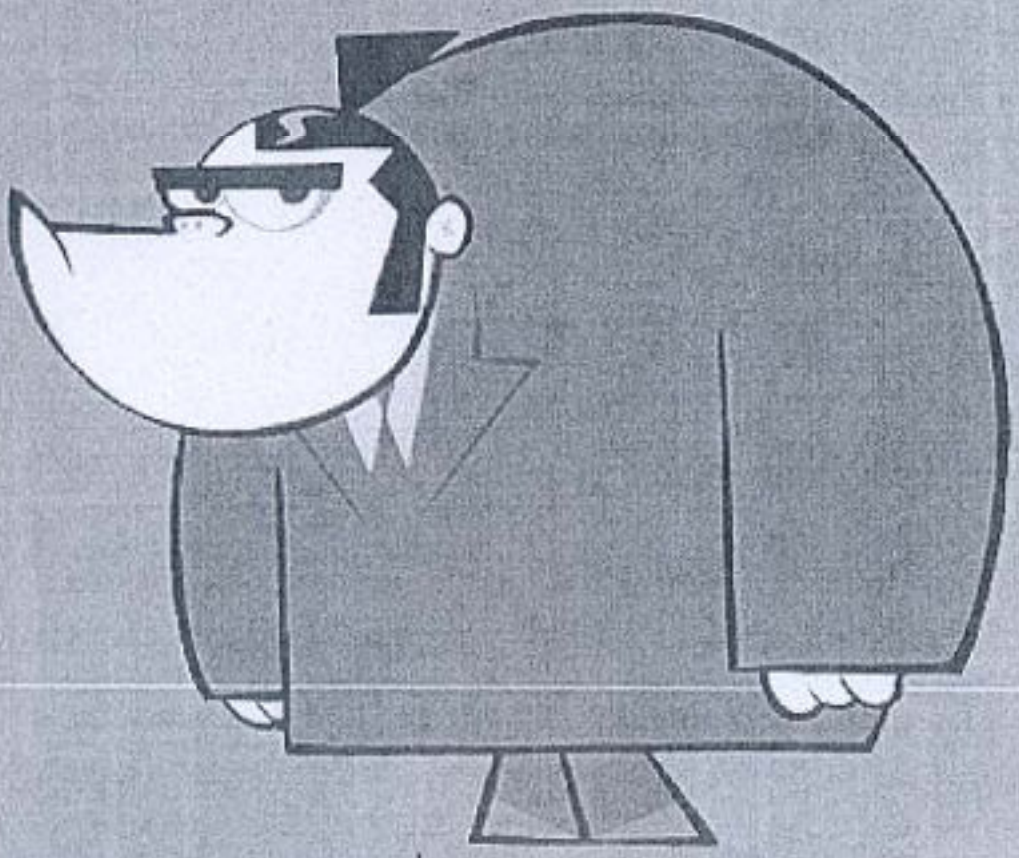


CONSTANTINE

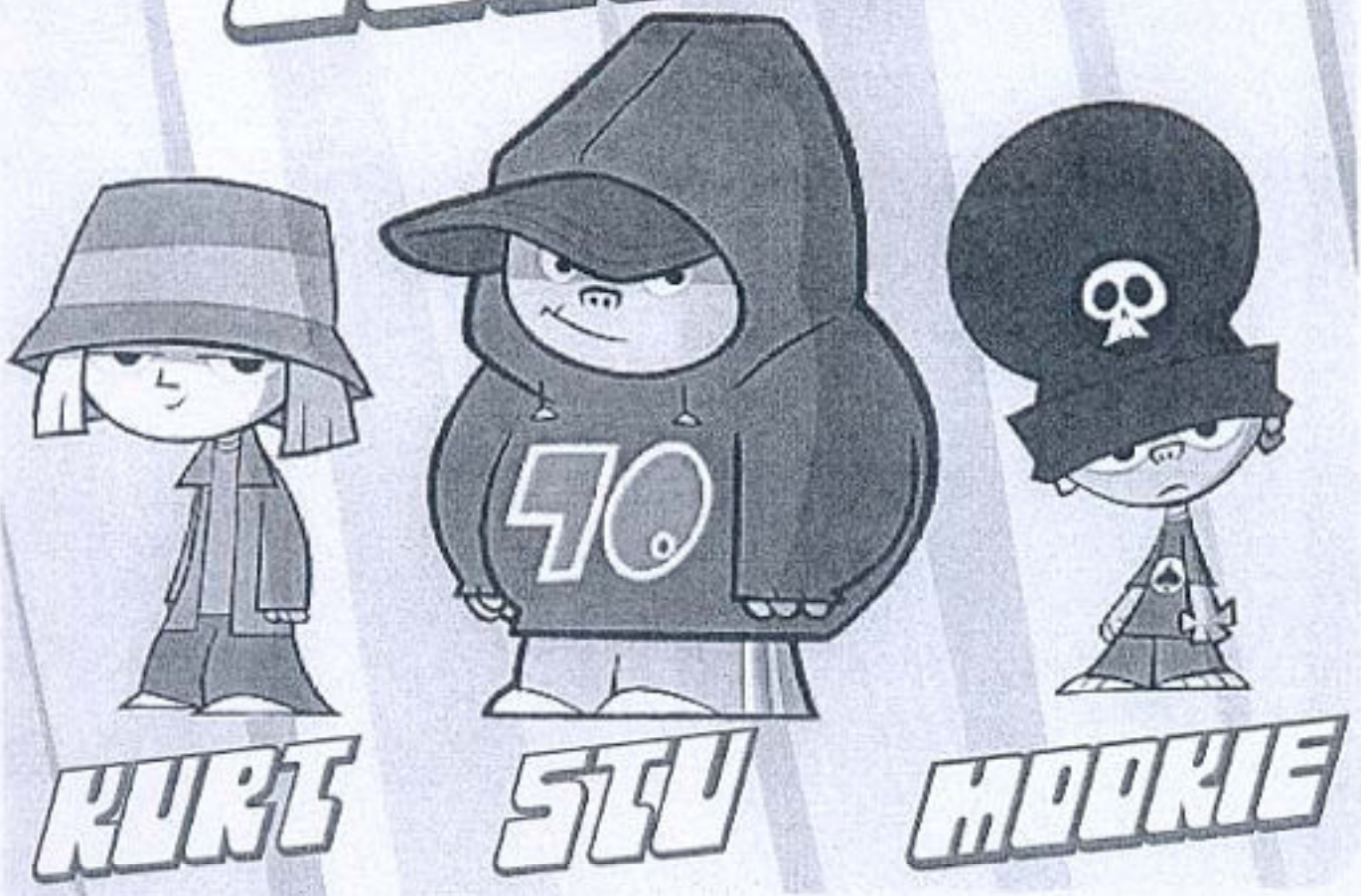
Dr. Kamikazi has a limitless army of henchmen but his majordomo is Constantine. Constantine looks like a moron but he's actually very cultured. He looks threatening but he's very gentle. He looks Japanese but speaks with a soft, lilting, breezy accent from the American South (like Blanche DuBois from "A Streetcar Named Desire"). He's sensitive, emotional and cries at movies. He's a wonderful chef who makes eye- and palate-pleasing creations. Kamikazi insists that Constantine make all his meals. "No one does it like you, Constantine."

If Doctor Kamikazi ever criticizes or appears to disapprove of anything Constantine does or makes, Constantine becomes very emotional and self-disparaging. "You're right, boss. I'm terrible. I'm not worthy of Kaziland." Doctor Kamikazi then must go overboard to soothe his wounded feelings. "No, Constantine. You're a wonderful cook. I'm lucky to have you. I'm sorry I didn't finish my tapas. It was so rich and filling."

Dr. Kamikazi has the power to create clone armies to do his evil bidding. Typically they consist of "henchmen," identical mobster types who look like Constantine only dumber. But Kamikazi also has the ability to combine human/animal species to create mutant clone armies to do his evil bidding.



SCHOOL BULLIES



A trio of kids in Tommy's grade who torment and harass Tommy and his Friends. The leader, Kurt, looks like a hipster-slacker but is actually quite wicked. He's soft-spoken and talks like a young Christopher Walken. He's smart, mean-spirited, and ruthless. Kurt is subject to migraines, and frequently has to go to the nurse's office to lie down. Kurt never does any of his crew's dirty work, and thus he never gets busted. He's the brains of the operation.

The enforcing he leaves to his two acolytes, Stu and Mookie.

Stu is the muscle of the group – big, strong and dumb. He's generally slow to anger, but goes berserk whenever anyone makes Fun of his mom. Because he's only useful to Kurt when he's going berserk, Kurt always tells him people are mocking his mom even when they're not.

Mookie is scrawny and creepy-looking – a classic psycho. Though the smallest of the three, he's probably the scariest. (Mookie's real name is Mordechai, but if anyone dares to utter it, he goes crazy on them.)

OTHER SCHOOL CHARACTERS

BAMBI

A pretty, self-centered, cheerleader type who Tommy has a crush on. This is a problem for a couple of reason. First, she's totally the wrong girl for him. Second, she's Kurt's girlfriend. In truth, Tommy's crush is pretty shallow: he only likes her for her looks, but he's too smitten to realize it. Bambi is cruel to Tommy when she even bothers to take notice of him. But the things he'll do to try to impress her lead him into trouble. Sometimes Bambi flirts with Tommy to make Kurt jealous, which leads to big trouble for Tommy.

DR. FRIEDMAN-CULPEPPER

The school principal. She's an academic, somewhat crunchy type, who has lots of lofty theories about child development, none of which work in practice. She insists on being called "Dr." When there's a disciplinary problem at school, her answer is to spout a theory, which no one else understands of pays attention to. But as things get out of control, she loses it, throws away all of her doggerel and goes for the cricket bat in her office (called the Peacemaker), with which she starts whacking anyone in sight.

A NOTE TO WRITERS: GETTING STARTED!

Aspiring Writers: Getting Started!

Animated Shorts

Each episode of "Robotboy" is composed of two separate and unconnected ten and a half minute stories. In other words you have ten and a half minutes to tell your story. Here are some hints: Be succinct. Think visually. Write physical gags. Tell it in pictures where possible, and be aware that dialogue humor is only part of the game. This is not a talking heads sitcom.

Structure First, Funny Later

It is natural to want to create humor because it's fun, and it's satisfying when it works. But start with the hard stuff, please. The story has to make sense before it can work on a comic level. We require a solid premise, followed by a logical beat outline and, if necessary a revision of the outline, followed by two drafts of the script. Oh yeah, and it should be funny.

Conflict

The premise of this show has several built-in, natural conflicts. Try to use them—they are your friends. Beyond this, you need a conflict for your story or else you don't have a story. Start with a conflict, end with a resolution. For example, let's say the story is about how a football coach sees a disguised Robotboy in action and wants him to play on his all-star team. Robotboy is excited about this idea. He wants to be a real boy and in his view, real boys love football. But Tommy knows that by playing on a football team, Robotboy risks exposing his true identity. It's also unfair for a powerful fighting robot to compete in a league of humans. In the end Robotboy comes to accept that he can't be a football player, but he does get some consolation prize from Tommy that makes it all right.

Theme

The theme of your story should be developed somewhere between the conflict and the resolution. In our example the theme is about finding where you fit in. We see how it affects Robotboy and the other characters in the story, drives the action, and creates tension. If there is a subplot, the theme can also inform that story. Without being didactic, the theme should be relatable to kids.

Action And Humor

This show is an action comedy. Both are equally important.

Action

Obviously this isn't the first robot cartoon ever made - many have been here before us. As a result we run the risk of feeling cliché and derivative. It is essential that the action (as well as the humor, characters, dialogue, etc.) feels fresh. For example, characters shouldn't have laser beams shooting out of their eyes. It's just too familiar.

Humor

This show is a comedy. It features strong characters in a unique situation, and comes with ready-made ironies that can be exploited. So we can take advantage of both situational and character-driven humor. But in the end, visual humor will win the day. How things happen and what things look like are the main attractions in this cartoon. They are the yardstick by which its comic effect will be measured.

Tone

Robotboy may be world's ultimate cutting-edge, butt-kicking, prototype super-robot but neither he nor any other character ever uses a gun. Enemies are never killed, they are knocked silly. Injuries are never bloody. The violence should be cartoony and fun, never scary.

Very Important:
Remember The Audience !

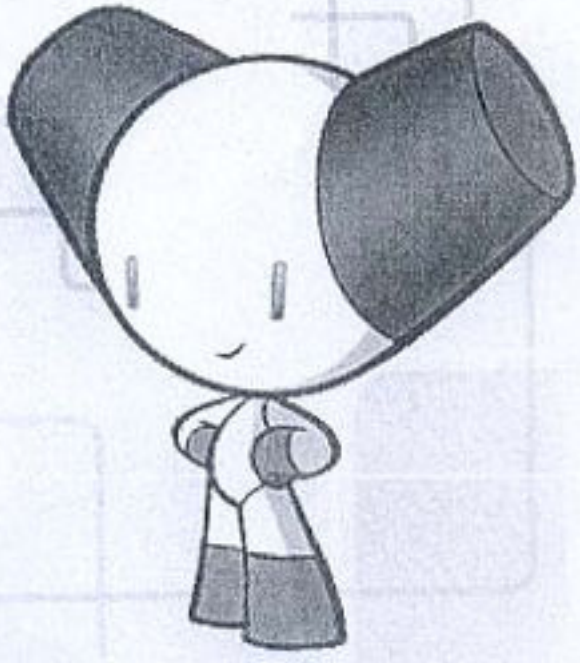
Robotboy is a show for kids. Kids recognize, on some level, that they're basically powerless in the world; unable to exercise their free will and forced to do the bidding of, among others: parents, teachers, shopkeepers and other, bigger kids. Kids yearn for some counterweight to this powerlessness. That's where having your own prototype butt-kicking fighting robot comes in. It's fantasy and wish fulfillment. Remember this, and saturate your stories with moments where these fantasies come true and you are well on your way to a successful Robotboy cartoon.

STORY EXAMPLES

There are two main types of stories: **The Kids Save Robotboy From an Adversary** (like Spy Kids) or **Robotboy Saves the Kids From an Adversary** (like Superman). It's possible to have episodes that have a little of each.

Robotboy and the kids are **Active Protagonists**. It's not enough for Dr. Kamikazi to simply launch an invasion which Robotboy is forced to parry. These are characters with desires and goals which they pursue. This pursuit can lead them into trouble and generate stories.

It is essential that there is a huge, dramatic fighting sequence involving Robotboy in every episode.



Sweet Revenge

When Tommy is forced to spend the night in the hospital, he reluctantly gives Robotboy to Gus for safekeeping. Kamikazi learns of this and launches a devious plan to get Robotboy away from Gus. Knowing Gus' weakness for sweets, he inserts a fake TV commercial for a new candy bar into Gus' favorite show. The "Kazikrunch" bar promises to give superpowers to whoever eats it. Gus is desperate for enough butt-kicking ability to get revenge against Tommy's bullying brother, Donnie. He falls for the ruse and sets out to find the candy, using Robotboy to tear apart candy machines, candy counters, candy stores and candy factories.

But the only one who possesses this candy is Kamikazi who uses his Kazikrunch bar-shaped blimp to lure Gus to the harbor. At this point, Robotboy is as desperate for this special candy as Gus. When Kamikazi delivers the goods, Robotboy eats some. Just as Kamikazi planned, it clogs up his inner-workings and immobilizes him.

Naturally, the candy gives Gus no special abilities (other than bad gas) and Kamikazi is able to make off with Robotboy. Tommy arrives on the scene, in time to browbeat Gus but too late to save Robotboy. Gus rashly fires a harpoon into Kamikazi's blimp, causing it to deflate and Robotboy to sink to the bottom of the bay where the seawater clears out his system enabling him to reactivate and do battle with Kamikazi and his army of flying jet ski-borne frogman clones.

Kami-Chameleon

When Kamikazi's henchclones show up at Tommy's school, lock all of the teachers in the basement, and use Kamikazi's technological morphing masks to disguise their faces as teachers, it looks like Tommy and Robotboy are sitting ducks.

But Tommy becomes suspicious of the plan when he notices his math teacher's face may look normal, but he's speaking with Kamikazi's voice and has a henchman's hulking body. After narrowly escaping math class, Tommy orders Robotboy to head straight home to avoid further problems. But Robotboy, loving being at school and around the other kids, disobeys him. Instead he dons a "hoody" sweatshirt to disguise himself and shows up in gym class for a dodge ball. Ms. Beuerlein, the gym teacher, also impersonated by a clone, recognizes Robotboy and orders the rest of the class out of the gym. Tommy hides under the bleachers and watches as Robotboy faces off against the teacher-clone in a martial arts showdown.

Robotboy wins the battle but soon finds himself up against the entire clone faculty in a high stakes dodgeball game. Robotboy holds his own against the clones and has no trouble surviving the weapons that Kamikazi sends against him when he arrives in his Kazi-copter. The only thing that mars Robotboy's triumph is a bit of debris that falls from the ruined ceiling and knocks out his batteries. Deactivated, Kamikazi begins levitating him through a hole in the roof to make off with him. Tommy risks everything to replace Robotboy's batteries, reactivating him and allowing him to blast the Kazi-copter out of the sky.

Constabot

When, yet again, Gus makes an ass of himself, Robotboy humiliates him by laughing uncontrollably. Tommy gives Robotboy a quick lesson about pity, then sends him home while he goes to tend Gus' wounded feelings.

Meanwhile, Constantine has attempted to please Kamikazi by welding together his own robot with which he intends to defeat Robotboy. Kamikazi takes one look at Constantine's creation, the Constabot, a crude, diesel-burning clunker roughly modeled on himself and starts berating Constantine and taunting him mercilessly. Constantine's feelings are so hurt that he becomes unable to function. Kamikazi, realizing he's going to be eating cold tapas until Constantine pulls himself together, agrees to send Constabot into battle against Robotboy. Unbeknownst to anyone, Robotboy has been taking Tommy's lesson to heart, taking pity on broken down equipment like cars and slurpy machines. When Constabot shows up, challenges Robotboy, then proceeds to fall apart, instead of blasting it to pieces, Robotboy takes pity on this unfortunate machine.

Tommy arrives to find Robotboy and Constantine heading hand-in-hand into Kamikazi's hovercraft. Tommy doesn't have time to talk sense into Robotboy. Instead, he stows away in a cavity inside Constabot's torso and heads out to see aboard the Kazi-craft. Kamikazi shows up to gloat and savor his new acquisition. But when Constabot steps on his toe, Kamikazi launches a barrage of insults at the mechanical oaf. Robotboy rises to his friend's defense and attacks Kamikazi. Kamikazi orders his crew of Octopus-Bison clones to attack Robotboy and a huge battle ensues.

In the crossfire, Constabot, with Tommy trapped inside of him falls through a hole in the hull and sinks to the bottom of the ocean. Robotboy saves him in the nick of time and together they repair Constabot and present him as a peace offering to Gus.

The Donnienator

Donnie, Tommy's sadistic older brother, sets out to destroy Tommy's collection of action figures and nearly succeeds in destroying the deactivated Robotboy. When Tommy sees Robotboy in peril along with the toys, he activates him, even though he knows this could expose Robotboy to Donnie. Robotboy rescues the toys and flings the shocked Donnie halfway across town where he becomes lodged in the nostril of a face on a giant billboard.

Later, Donnie arrives home with casts on his left arm and left leg, and accuses Tommy of having a killer robot toy. Tommy's parents think Donnie has had a nervous breakdown, but Donnie finds a sympathetic ear when he goes for a check-up visit to the doctor. His regular doctor is on vacation (or, as we discover, tied up in the closet), and none other than Dr. Kamikazi is filling in for him. As Donnie tells Kamikazi his story, the doctor replaces Donnie's arm and leg casts with a strange, shiny metal arm and leg covering. When Donnie gets home, he finds that his new casts have unusual attributes: his arm with the cast is now incredibly strong (Donnie discovers this by picking up cars and throwing them across the street). And his left leg/cast has a rocket jet in it. Donnie flies off, lopsidedly, and torments a series of kids.

Donnie savors his new powers to inflict harm on the neighborhood. But when Tommy shows up, Donnie's arm and leg casts start to unfold into a bizarre and frightening-looking fighting robot which he can't control. An all-out melee between Robotboy and the cast-bot ensues -- with a horrified Donnie along for the ride. Robotboy triumphs against this foe and when Mom and Dad arrive home, all is back to normal. Donnie tries to tell his parents about what happened. They don't believe him and send him to a therapist who can explore his bizarre robot obsessions. Lo and behold, the therapist is none other than Dr. Kamikazi.

SUPER ROBOT!*

Concept and characters created by Jan van Rijsselberge
Written by Bob Mittenthal and Mike Rubiner

*IT'S GO TIME!

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